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DCI BRIEFING FOR SENATOR RUSSELL

19 May 1964

CAMBODIA

- I. Prince Sihanouk is making the most of South Vietnam's violations of his frontier on May 7 and 8. He has taken advantage of this opportunity to renew his demands for an international conference to guarantee his frontiers.
  - A. Sihanouk is pushing his case before the UN Security Council. He is charging that the alleged participation of US officers in the incidents underscores American responsibility.
  - B. Sihanouk may be prepared to back up his political demands by taking stronger action on the frontier itself. He is strengthening his border forces with an elite paratroop battalion and with some Soviet antiaircraft guns.
- II. By and large, Sihanouk appears to feel that Cambodia cannot count on complete backing from any nation, even the Communists.
  - A. He terminated all US aid last winter. In doing so, he made it clear that he holds the US responsible for any opposition to Cambodia from South Vietnam and Thailand, or from exile Cambodians working against him in those countries.

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1. Sihanouk blames the United States for his failure to obtain an international conference to guarantee his frontiers. He also charges that Great Britain, co-chairman of the original Geneva Conference, is obstinately blocking his attempts to call a new Geneva Conference.
2. Peiping and Hanoi gave him little encouragement after he hinted he would recognize North Vietnam and the Viet Cong, provided they would accept Cambodia's claims concerning the Cambodian - South Vietnamese border.

B. Now Sihanouk sees his country in deepening economic trouble. He also sees nobody rushing in to prime Cambodia's economic pump by replacing the roughly \$30 million annual assistance he was getting from us.

1. So far, Sihanouk has been able to get only minor military aid from Communist China, the USSR, and France. He hopes to get more French economic aid when he visits Paris next month.

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C. The border incidents earlier this month upset Sihanouk's earlier decision to hold border questions in abeyance until his return from France in July. The relative calmness of his reaction, however, suggests that his inclination is to let matters simmer. He will probably forgo, at least for the present, any dramatic moves which would alter Cambodia's international position.

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